THE

CRISIS.

NUMBER XV. *To be continued Weekly.*

SATURDAY, April 29, 1775, [Price Two-pence Half-penny.

——— *Similis frondeſcit Virga.*———

A conſtant *Scourge*---ſtill I'll renew the Charge,
And laſh the *Tyrant* as his Crimes enlarge.

A *Fooliſh King* graſps at Wealth and Power, as the *Ends*, a *Wiſe King* uſes them as the *means* of Government. With the *one*, they are Gorgeous, vain Appendages of Royalty; with the *other*, they are happy Inſtruments of *Benevolence*. A *fooliſh King* eyes LIBERTY aſkaunt, and execrates it as the bane of Greatneſs; a *wiſe King* knows that neither

neither Kingdom, nor Sovereign, can be Great without it. The *Fool* endeavours to root up, what the *Patriot King* moſt aſſiduouſly Cultivates. A *weak Prince* is jealous of LIBERTY in its loweſt Branches. Hence it is, that he not only ſtrikes at the Rights and Privileges of his People, but is Mean enough to envy the IMMUNITIES of a CORPORATION. He ſtarts at *Shadows*. In ſuch a Reign even COMMERICAL MEETINGS are ODIOUS, becauſe they are compoſed of FREEMEN. Even *Common Halls* are an UNLAWFUL CONGRESS; like that in *America*, they are deemed REBELLIOUS ASSOCIATIONS. How ſophiſtically do *miniſterial Scriblers* labour to draw an artful Veil over ſuch political Tranſgreſſions as SOVEREIGNS, without a Bluſh, avow? Can the *ſagacious Doctor Johnſon* (that *miniſterial Hackney*) any longer rally the well grounded Jealouſies of *England* and *America*? Can he *now* aſk theſe *Croakers of Calamity*, how *Slavery* can be brought from *America* into *England?* If he dares, I refer him for his Anſwer to *Lord Hertford* (one of the *State Nurſerymen*) who ſowed a ſubtle Seed, *or two*, of *Slavery*, even in our *Metropolis*, the other Day. I hope, however, that theſe Seeds will be *ſeverely* choaked by the rank and ſtubborn WEED of LIBERTY. A *Weed* it is now deemed in the CABINET, and in the LEGISLATURE, and in both condemned to be rooted up. A Crop far more promiſing is expected. The Experiment of raiſing it by SLOW DEGREES, has juſt been made. His MAJESTY, ſick of all ADDRESSES but thoſe of his FAITHFUL PARLIAMENT, has juſt declared, "*That he will not receive on the Throne, any ADDRESS, REMONSTRANCE, or PETITION, of the Lord Mayor, and Aldermen of the City of London, but on their CORPORATE CAPACITY.*" Thus is the Notice worded by *Lord Mansfield*, Lord Chief Juſtice (not of the *Ceremonies*) but of *England*.—The Reaſon, or rather the DESIGN of this, is Plain. For all Acts done in their CORPORATE CAPACITY, the City of London is Reſponſable as a CORPORATION. Neither the Proceedings, the Reſolves, nor the CONGRESS of a COMMON HALL, can forfeit the CHARTER of the City; the *Offences*, (ſuch as *Petitions*) of the

the *City*, as a CORPORATION, may. In the one Caſe, they act in their *Political Capacity*; in the other, they do not. The *Lord Mayor*, *Aldermen*, and *Liverymen*, are *Individuals*; but the CORPORATION has but one *Neck*. This *miniſterial Mouſe-Trap*, is baited by a Lord Chief Juſtice of *England*, whoſe Duty it moſt clearly is (for I will Teach it him) to carry the Balance *with an even and an equal Hand*, between the juſt PREROGATIVES of the CROWN, and the undoubted PRIVILEGES of the SUBJECT.

I make no doubt but a *Mansfield* and a *Thurloe* will conduct the intended Scheme as well as a *Jefferies*, or a *Sawyer*. The memorable Caſe of the SEVEN BISHOPS, in *James the Seconds* Time, is now forgot at Court, and PETITIONS are once more degenerated into CRIMES.

Though the actual Annihilation of the CITY CHARTER may not be intended, as it cannot be the Intereſt of the Crown to check any Source of Wealth; yet the Menaces, and intimidating Proſecutions of a RAPACIOUS MINISTRY may be expected to have the ſame happy Effects, as *threatning Letters*, ſometimes, have among *Thieves*. They found it ſo lately, in the Caſe of the *Eaſt India Company*, and it is not improbable that their Audacity may ſtrengthen with their Hopes.

Toys and Baubles muſt be bought, and *Baby Houſes* muſt be crowded to amuſe and divert VACANT SOVEREIGNS, and *Ravens* muſt have Food. The numerous Mouths of CORRUPTION muſt be ſtopped. Too many Stratagems for the Sake of WEALTH and ARBITRARY POWER, cannot be tried. For GOLD every Coffer; for POWER every Vein muſt BLEED. The Predictions of *America* in reſpect to *England herſelf*, are now verifying. They are coming forward *by ſlow Degrees*, at this Inſtant. Our *Miniſters* of late have had a ſtrange Appetite for CHARTERS. In *Wilkes's* Caſe they had the DARING IMPUDENCE to attack the GREAT CHARTER

CHARTER of ENGLAND for the ſake of POWER. They have ſince been nibbling at the *Eaſt India Company*'s, for the ſake of *Wealth and Power both*; the Company compounded and acquieſed. They are ſtriking again at CHARTERS in *America*, (as their *retained* and *penſioned Advocate* Dr. JOHNSON ſays) for the ſake of POWER, and they now have their Eye upon the Charters of London, for a Royal Reaſon,—for the ſake of *purſuing the Commercial-Intereſts of this Kingdom.*

But are the PETITIONS of COMMON HALLS, or COMMON HALLS themſelves, ſo dreadful? are the MEETINGS, (or more properly the GREAT COUNCILS,) of this METROPOLIS ſo *terrible?* are they not the Meetings of MERITORIOUS Citizens and LOYAL Subjects? in both theſe Capacities they have ADDRESSED, and in both they have OFFENDED.

How harſh and grating is the Voice of TRUTH! how unhallowed are the Lips that dare to utter it before the THRONE! Approach it ye BRITISH SLAVES, upon the Knee; adore it with *proſtration*, but profane it not with a PETITION! upon this *Mercy Seat* (alas!) the *Sovereign* will no more receive PETITIONS, from his FAITHFUL CITIZENS and *Friends*, from thoſe who ſupply his WANTS, his SUPERFLUITIES, his EXTRAVAGANCIES, and his PLENTEOUS COFFERS, upon this *ſacred Seat* he can only liſten to the SYCOPHANTIC ADDRESSES of a CORRUPT and DESTRUCTIVE PARLIAMENT, thoſe *Leeches* of the *Realm*, who ſo largely drain for their own abandaned uſes, thoſe Coffers, which his REPULSED CITIZENS ſo largely fill.

How like a GOD does a MONARCH look, encircled by TREACHEROUS MINIONS and RAPACIOUS FLATTERERS! How like a *mere* MORTAL, ſurrounded by Subjects MOST AFFECTIONATE, and SINCERE, who

ſhower

ſhower down at once both SUPPLIES and BLESSINGS, upon a Prince whom they HONOUR, ESTEEM, and LOVE!

But KINGS ſhould quit the Track of MORTALS—they ſhould diſdain the *little Virtues* of HUMANITY! The *Spirit* of a *Monarch* ſhould aſpire at an ECCENTRIC CHARACTER, beyond the reach of MAN. This will nobly lead him not to *endure*, but to *repell* the humble Suits of his AGGRIVED SUBJECTS;—not to careſs, but to deteſt his People;—not to ſooth, conciliate, and appeaſe; but to menace, inſult, and exterminate: not to human Errors, but INHUMAN CRIMES: not to REFORMATION, but to MURDER. Not to JUSTICE, but to TYRANNY. Not to PEACE and HONOUR, but to REMORSE, HATRED, CALAMITY, RESISTANCE, and the SCAFFOLD.

Let ſuch Princes, like that unhappy Tyrant *Charles the Firſt*, ſeek in Vain for Shelter, among the fawning Herds that idolize their Vices, for the ſake of ſharing their Prodigality and Profuſion.

Let them try their faithful *Scots*, who as they have often received the Wages of CORRUPTION, will *a ſecond Time* receive the PRICE OF BLOOD.

Let them fly to the Arms of thoſe *tender Tyrants*, their PRECEPTORS, who have thus carefully trained them to their IGNOMINY and RUIN from their Cradle.

Whilſt they repulſe a ſuffering and an injured Subject, let them fall for Conſolation, upon the FRIENDLY Boſom of a *Mansfield* or a *Bute*.—Let them in their Frenzy fly for Succou to their CHANCELLOR,—not a *York*, alas!—but an *Apſley*, the poor SHADOW of a *Mansfield*.—Let them moſt deſervedly

vedly taſte all the Bitterneſs of *Deſpair*, and find Relief (though late) at laſt, in the generous CONDESCENSION and FORGIVENESS, of a DESPISED, INSULTED, and OPPRESSED PEOPLE.

ASTONISHED *then*, my Lord *Mansfield*, not at the Humble, juſt PETITIONS, but at the LENITY of their PATIENT SUBJECTS, let them deliver up their MINIONS to the BLOCK, with Shame and Contrition reſign the CROWN, and Sleep IGNOBLY with their Fathers; but let their INFAMY be recorded, that ſucceeding Princes may profit largely from ſuch WEAK and GUILTY ANNALS.

CASCA.

N. B. The Epiſtle to *Lord Mansfield* from CASCA is received, and ſhall be made the Subject of our XVII Number. The Writer may depend, his Directions will upon every Occaſion, be implicitly followed.—The Authors of the CRISIS wiſh to be honoured with a private Direction, how to convey a few Papers Weekly to CASCA, for the Uſe of himſelf and Friends, as a ſmall Tribute of Gratitude for the repeated Favours he has conferred on them. He may reſt aſſured they never can betray PRIVATE CONFIDENCE, nor abuſe the ſacred Offices of Friendſhip.

Printed and publiſhed for the Authors, by T. W. SHAW, in Fleet-Street, oppoſite Anderton's Coffee Houſe, where Letters to the Publiſher will be thankfully received.